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GENERAL

As Dominicans this week prepared for the Christmas holidays, one of the big news items continued to be the weather in the northern part of the country where heavy rains continued to fall in some sections (Item 2). Reaction to the so-called "Benidorm Accord", the published results of the PRD Commission's discussion with Juan Bosch, has thus far been confused and uncertain (Item 1).

In other news this week (1) the MPD denied Secret Police charges that it was planning to promote disorders and attempts against the lives of government officials and members of the armed forces (Item 3); (2) Juan Isidro JIMENES Grullón, admitting he is a Marxist-Leninist, was questioned about his "semi-dictatorship" thesis on a Santo Domingo television program (Item 4); (3) the Santo Domingo Ayuntamiento was scheduled to begin making payments of some RD\$1.3 million to over 5,000 ex-workers on December 20; (4) the Dominican Communist Party (PCD), repeating statements made at the time of Bosch's threatened resignation as PRD adviser, again called for unity and coordination of all forces which reject "the electoral path";

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(5) the Chamber of Deputies unanimously upheld President Balaguer's veto of the controversial law which would have permitted the installation of slot machines in authorized gambling establishments; (6) Ambassador Hector GARCIA-GODOY again termed as "simple speculations" rumors of his possible presidential candidacy in 1970; (7) a strike at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo by employees who are demanding the regalia pascual for all employees who earn up to RD\$200 monthly (the Consejo voted to pay a regalia of 40 percent of one month's salary to those who earn up to RD\$130 a month) continued at week's end; (8) the Palace announced that the military and employees of the Liga Municipal and the municipalities themselves would be included in arrangements to extend loans to public employees in place of the traditional regalia pascual (see WPR #39); (9) and finally the organization of two more Balaguer-Lora pro-reelection committees, one in Cabrera and the other in Sanchez, was announced this week.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

1. PRD's "Benidorm Accord" Announced

The PRD Commission returned from Spain December 15 (see WPR #39), and with it brought back the text of the so-called "Benidorm Accord" which constituted the published results of the Commission's discussions with Juan Bosch. The three-part document defined the PRD as a poly-class party fighting to overcome the DR's alleged status as a "dependency" of US "Pentagonism". The document recognized that there were other Dominicans also seeking this same objective and the PRD affirmed that "the principal goal of each and every one of its members is to fight, with the means which the circumstances permit", to liberate the DR from its "dependency". Elections were not a guarantee of national independence, it said, but the PRD's electoral participation might be justified in certain cases approved by the high party organs. Bosch was given permission to visit other "capitalist and socialist countries" who have made "contributions to political science", and was requested to publish and explain his "Popular Dictatorship" thesis for the benefit of the party masses. The "Benidorm Accord" would be made a basic party document and implemented by the PRD's directing bodies until the next national convention could be held.
(SD-4504).

Two days after the Commission's return, a speech taped by Bosch in Benidorm was played over Tribuna Democrática. In it, Bosch repeated his earlier explanations of why he is through with democracy and said that to run for President would be to "sell his conscience". He read the full text of the "Benidorm Accord" and summarized it as meaning that the PRD is "a front of different classes who recognize the country is not free and who are dedicated to fight for national independence and who will go to elections to win those positions which serve to maintain the struggle for independence". Bosch added that President Balaguer and others have charged that "Popular Dictatorship" was a communist thesis, and said he would "leave it to the Dominican

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people to decide if it is communist or if it guarantees (their) real rights and real freedoms". (SD-4516). In other Bosch-related developments, National District Secretary General Washington DE PEÑA denied reports that he was heading up a group of PRD leaders demanding Bosch's ouster for "treason" to the party; and at week's end National Organization Secretary "Rafa" GAMUNDI rose to the defense of "Popular Dictatorship" -- as is his wont -- and said that those "vacillating and conservative" PRDers who want Bosch out of the party are wrong if they think his leaving the PRD would mean the end of the thesis they fear so much.

COMMENT: Party reaction to the "Benidorm Accord" has thus far been confused and uncertain. Most PRDers appear to be awaiting the return of PEÑA Gómez (probably between December 23-27), and with it a more definitive explanation of what the "agreement" really means for the future of the PRD. Meanwhile, most "moderates" appear determined to take the document at face value and insist on participation in the 1970 elections; however, much depends on how far Bosch and the "radicals" are willing to go in imposing the Professor's control -- clearly strengthened at Benidorm -- on the PRD. As for Washington de Peña (his denials notwithstanding) it is well known in PRD circles that he has been an advocate of Bosch's ouster; what is less certain is just how much support -- if any -- he has for his position. (CONFIDENTIAL).

2. Heavy Rains Continue in North

Controversy still exists over how much damage has been caused by the recent heavy rains in the northern part of the country. Returning from a helicopter tour of the area last weekend, President Balaguer said that initial estimates of crop damage were exaggerated and that the heavy rains would result in a net gain, producing an optimal harvest. He said the worst damage was to the Santiago-Puerto Plata highway. PRD Deputy Gilberto MARTINEZ y Martinez charged that the President had been "badly informed" on the extent of the damage, and maintained that flooding had wiped out a large part of agricultural production throughout the area. Nacional quoted other sources (mostly unidentified "experts") during the week who insisted that the flood damage greatly exceeded that assessed by the GODR. After conversations with competent observers in the Cibao region, Consulate Santiago reported that the overall preliminary conclusion is that the country will gain more in the long term from the rains than it lost. Tomatoes and rice seem to have been the hardest hit while cacao, pasture land and plantains benefitted immediately and directly from the rains. Nevertheless an estimated 23 persons have lost their lives and many others, especially the very poor, have been left homeless. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

3. Police Denounce MPD Plot

Last weekend the Commander of the Secret Police publicly denounced the existence of a plot on the part of the Dominican Popular

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Movement (MPD) to promote disorders and attempts against the lives of government officials and members of the armed forces. Major Francisco BAEZ Mariñez added that the police were aware of those involved and warned that they would not hesitate to take action in case the acts he mentioned took place. The MPD characterized Baez' declarations as false but reiterated previous public statements that Clandestine Revolutionary Commands had been formed to carry out the struggle against the Balaguer government. The MPD statement went on to say that the struggle included the creation of CRCs within the armed forces and emphasized the imperative necessity of integrating the military into the struggle against the government.

Meanwhile, the PQD responded to an article in PACOREDO's publication El Comunista which called the MPD the "left arm" of the PQD. The PQD denied any connection with the MPD and claimed that the "anti-communist and Christian character" of Elias WESSIN Y WESSIN made such contact impossible. (UNCLASSIFIED).

4. Jimenes GRULLON Explains Semi-Dictatorship Thesis

Juan Isidro JIMENES Grullón, founder of the miniscule Alianza Social Demócrata (ASD) and its 1962 presidential candidate, this week admitted he was a Marxist-Leninist. Jimenes told a television audience that a government based on his "semi-dictatorship" thesis would restrict the rights of political organization of the bourgeoisie which, he argued, was the class responsible for the national evils. Jimenes maintained that his semi-dictatorship would not come about through either insurrection or elections but rather through the organization of the masses into one political group which he called the "Popular Revolutionary Front". Jimenes said that he had withdrawn from "militant" politics because the conditions necessary to create such a front do not exist at the present time. Following Jimenes' television appearance, Secretary of Interior and Police Federico Maximo SMESTER suggested publicly that the ASD's recognition by the Central Electoral Board should be reviewed in the light of Jimenes' new political philosophy which, Smester implied, was subversive. (UNCLASSIFIED).

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